



The JFMG Team: (left to right) Craig, Keith, Amanda, Des, Will, Paul, Jaydev, Beverley, Prue, Fiona, Philip, and Brent



October 2006

### Managing the PMSE spectrum until October 2008



Earlier this month Ofcom and JFMG signed the agreement that means we will continue to issue programme making licences for the next 2 years!

## A new horizon (at last!)

It's a brilliant animation sequence; Gromit laying new track section-by-section in front of his speeding train to avoid a catastrophic derailment. But this is exactly how it is has been in real-life at JFMG this summer! We too have been running at full-tilt even though the end-of-our-line often seemed to be a perilously short distance away.

The programme making industry is uniquely facing unprecedented change. Not just from the numerous threats to its spectrum but also in the way that spectrum is accessed and managed. In other sectors their allocations are secure leaving them free to cautiously explore the new opportunities that Ofcom's initiatives of auctions, trading and liberalisation may provide. Programme makers don't have that luxury of a stable base. No wonder the future looks to some like a dimly lit tunnel.

The team has held its nerve and now we are all delighted to have secured agreement with Ofcom to continue to provide a frequency management service right through to 30th September 2008. We would have liked a longer run but we recognise that their new market tools won't wait.

We aim to maintain the current head-of-steam over the next two years and support the industry through these challenging times. We can now push on with the roll-out of our own innovative tools for on-line booking of spectrum whilst our team get to grips with exciting events such as the visit of Le Tour de France to London next summer. Some of our headline "now and next" technological developments are described in these pages.

The future may not yet be clear but we relish the opportunity to meet it head-on and we have no intention of being caught wearing "The Wrong Trousers"!

**Paul Gill –  
Managing Director**

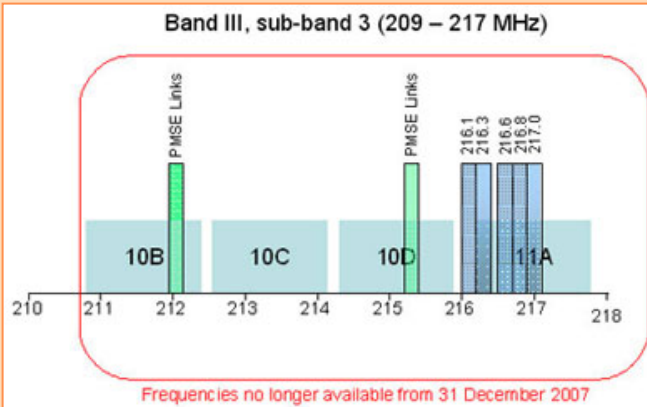


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If you have any comments about JFMG News please email: [amanda.houchen@jfm.co.uk](mailto:amanda.houchen@jfm.co.uk)

### VHF Radio Mics



From January 2008 frequencies between 210.8 MHz and 217.6 MHz will be used to provide further digital radio services (DAB) in blocks 10B, 10C, 10D and 11A.



The diagram above shows exactly what PMSE frequencies will be affected by the change and will therefore no longer be available after 31 Dec 2007.

The affected frequencies are:

- 216.1 MHz;
- 216.3 MHz;
- 216.6 MHz;
- 216.8 MHz;
- 217.0 MHz

Alternative frequencies are being found and JFMG will keep you posted with developments via the website as soon as they are finalised.

# Supporting Innovation and Research in New Technologies

We are probably best known for providing rapid access to spectrum for the dynamic programme making and entertainment industry. But we also work behind the scenes to support hi-tech developments in wireless technology for the future and to support UK industry as it develops products for other markets.

These technical innovations and research projects have to be accommodated within spectrum alongside existing activities and this inevitably includes programme making spectrum.

Each week Ofcom circulate a summary of the latest applications received for technical assessment and comment. Our approach is always to try to find a solution that meets the applicant's requirements but doesn't expose programme makers to a risk of interference or seriously reduce capacity in key areas. Negotiation on technical parameters such as antenna pattern, power and frequency can often reduce the impact to safe levels. Where the risk remains high, we can coordinate the tests with actual programme making operations.

In recent months, applications successfully coordinated in frequency bands used by programme makers include: Trials of High Definition TV and TV to handheld devices; remotely controlled vehicles for handling the destruction of explosive devices; propagation research; a field trial of wireless internet access and suspension bridge monitoring.

Our close knowledge and understanding of programme making uniquely enables us to say "Yes" to innovation.



A remote control explosive device disposal vehicle.  
Photo courtesy of Remotec Ltd

## Technology...



### Did you know?

That UHF and VHF Shared Microphone licences are cheaper if you buy them on-line. Go to [www.jfmg.co.uk](http://www.jfmg.co.uk) and use our login in page to access the facility



## JFMG @ IBC

The 8 - 12 September saw the industry descend en masse to IBC 2006, the annual International Broadcasting Convention in Amsterdam. We were also in attendance to search out the latest technological developments and to touch base with customers and manufacturers alike.

The 40,000 delegates were treated to displays of High Definition Television (HDTV) and Mobile TV to handheld receivers which appeared to be the 'hot potatoes' of this year's event. We viewed with particular interest, new Wireless Cameras that support High Definition, the latest wireless microphone developments and wireless over fibre technology.

We hope that increased contact with manufacturers and customers at events such as the IBC and the PLASA show will enable us to identify trends with a view to better serve and represent the programme making industry.

### Access to 2.5 GHz Wireless Camera spectrum



Programme makers were due to relinquish access to 2500 – 2690 MHz on 31 December to enable the spectrum to be auctioned during 2007. There have however been developments which mean that annual licensees will be able to continue using their assignments after the original cut off date. Licensees will be given 3 months notice to vacate the band during 2007 but it is unlikely that this will happen until later in the year. Short term assignments will continue to be permitted but availability will be reduced after July to allow an increase in capacity for Test & Development licences. See our Key Events timeline at the end of this newsletter to see the timings in full.

# Out & About...



Prue at the initial survey in March '06

## Supporting the 2006 Open Golf

Hoylelake, Royal Liverpool Golf Course. Midday Friday 21 July, the JFMG team huddle around an air conditioning unit in an attempt to escape the sweltering heat... It's The Open Golf and like every year we're entrenched in a Portacabin beside the course to ensure the event runs smoothly.

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews approached us some years ago to attend the "The Open" after spectrum users caused interference to each other and couldn't resolve the problem themselves. Our unique position in managing the PMSE spectrum enabled us to broker agreement between users and facilitated a successful event.

The "Open" wherever it takes place has always been a challenge from a spectrum management perspective and this year was no exception. Hoylelake sits on a spit of land that receives signals from no less than 3 high-power TV transmitters. This makes it difficult to find sufficient spectrum for the huge broadcasting operation.

Consequently planning starts in March with an initial site visit to confirm the location of hot-spots of radio activity and a full technical survey of local signals. Then a comprehensive yet "innovative" plan is devised. Outlandish ideas like borrowing frequencies from other users are even employed!

Paul Gill heads to the course the Monday before play and sets up our specialist equipment. It's this equipment coupled with our list of licensed frequencies that allow us to scan the airwaves to check that all participants are using the correct frequencies. We can also investigate any interference problems that arise and resolve them quickly. This year's event went smoothly with only minor cases of licensees using incorrect frequencies and an issue involving licence exempt equipment which we willingly tried to help resolve.

We believe our on-site service at the "The Open" has contributed to its success as problems can be identified and rectified promptly. We believe there are other events that could also benefit from our expertise so if you are an event organiser with spectrum management worries why not contact us at [admin@jfmfg.co.uk](mailto:admin@jfmfg.co.uk) to find out how we can help you.



Paul sets up ready for the event to go live

### Buyer Beware!

Did you know that licence fees could be increasing during 2007?



Ofcom will be announcing their decision on programme making licence fees by the end of 2006. If their proposals go forward they will be implemented some time during the next year.

Have a look at our Key Events timeline at the end of this newsletter for more information or visit:

[http://www.jfmfg.co.uk/jfmfgcom/Docs/JFMG\\_Fees\\_Quick\\_Guidev2.rtf](http://www.jfmfg.co.uk/jfmfgcom/Docs/JFMG_Fees_Quick_Guidev2.rtf)

for details of how the proposals could affect you.

# Next Steps...

## Ch69 – For Sale or Rent?

Perhaps our most frequently asked question is: "Will Ch69 still be available for wireless mics or will it be auctioned off?"



The answer is not yet clear but we are expecting to learn Ofcom's initial thoughts when its Digital Dividend consultation is published later this year (see our Key Events timeline at the end of this newsletter). This is when our industry needs to make its joined-up case for the future. To this end, we aim to keep users informed of options and to watch-out for indirect threats such as 'noisy-neighbour' technologies moving into Ch68. You can subscribe to our free news alert email service at: [www.jfmg.co.uk](http://www.jfmg.co.uk)

## Web Innovations

Back in August we launched our on-line location planner for UHF microphones, marking the first phase of our initiative to bring more on-line services to our customers.

Users can now do their own planning on what mic frequencies can be used at a location. All you have to do is indicate the location where you want to use your kit and the rest is done for you. Popular locations can be picked from our growing list or you can simply type in the post code or even an Ordnance Survey grid reference. The next phase of the project will be to allow customers to not only check frequencies on-line but to book them too! Subsequent developments will be to extend these services to UHF talkback.

Finally we have recently introduced our 12 hour on-line Wireless Camera booking system. The facility provides customers with the ability to book wireless camera assignments in 2 GHz. Also coming soon – our on-line Fees Calculator.

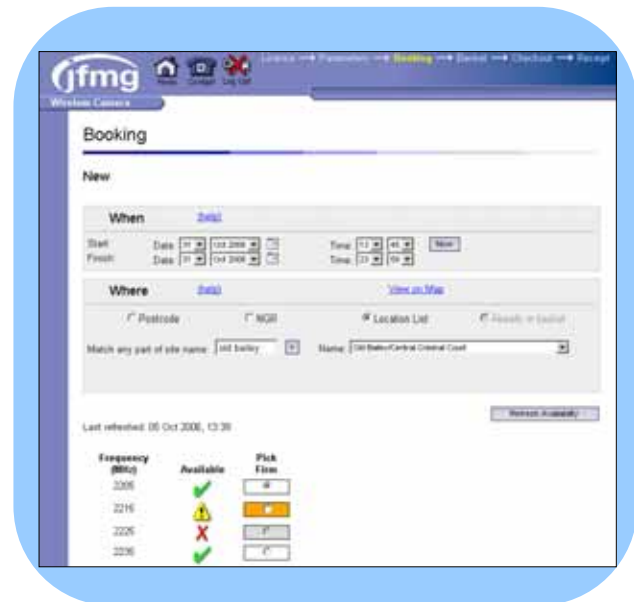
All of these services are available via the JFMG login page. If you're an existing licensee with login details why not visit the area now. If you require a login you'll need to visit the same page on the website for full details of how to obtain one.

## Congratulations

Well done to Will Columbine from our Admin team who took part in the Great Gorilla Run on Sunday 24 September. Despite the suit he managed to complete the 7 km run in 41 minutes! All proceeds will help protect the endangered mountain gorilla in its native habitat.



The on-line UHF Microphone Location Tool



The 2 GHz Wireless Camera Booking tool



Will makes a monkey out of JFMG?

# Programme Making Spectrum - Key Events

